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CHIOJNACKI, MELLISSA M				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,391

Applicant(s)

NAPPER ET AL.

Examiner

MELLISSA M. CHOJNACKI

Art Unit

2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. In response to communications filed on November 23, 2008, no claims are cancelled; claims 1, and 17 have been amended, and no new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-23 are still presently pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

3. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. These claims disclose a system, method, or apparatus but do not describe hardware which executes each of the claimed steps, which is required for a system claim to be statutory. Furthermore, the specification discloses An information source can include a server, or any type of terminal, that may be associated with one or more storage devices that are able to store information or data, such as digital ink, for example in one or more databases residing on a storage device. The exchange of information (i.e., the request and/or receipt of information or data) between a terminal and an information source, or other terminal(s), is facilitated by

a communication means. The communication means can be realised by physical cables, for example a metallic cable such as a telephone line, semi-conducting cables, electromagnetic signals, for example radio-frequency signals or infra-red signals, optical fibre cables, satellite links or any other such medium or combination thereof connected to a network infrastructure" (See paragraph 0024 of the Specification), and these elements are energy. Energy is not one of the four categories of invention and therefore these claims are not statutory. Energy is not a series of steps or acts and thus is not a process. Energy is not a physical article or object and as such is not a machine or manufacture. Energy is not combination of substances and therefore not a composition of matter. Applicant is asked to delete "signals" and other type of suggestion that the media/medium that may be an energy element from the specification and submit in the remarks section of the next reply a statement of disavowal, disavowing that the computer media/medium can be a carrier wave or any other type of media that may be an energy element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lopresti et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,832,474).

As to claim 1, Lopresti et al. teaches a method of improving accuracy in searching digital ink stored in a database accessible by a processing system the database storing the digital ink in a plurality of formats, each format being different than the other formats, the processing system having a plurality of digital ink searching algorithms, each searching algorithm being different than the other searching algorithms and being specialized for searching digital ink of a respective one of the different formats in the database, (See abstract; column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-28), the method comprising:

receiving, as input digital ink in the processing system the search input query having a specialized format (See column 2, lines 43-59; column 3, lines 16-33);

determining, in the processing system, the specialized format of input digital ink (See column 3, lines 16-28, where "patterns" is read on "format");

selecting a digital ink searching algorithm within the processing system which is specialized to a search digital ink of the specialized format in the database (See column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-2, lines 16-28; column 13, lines 11-18); and,

searching the digital ink of the specialized format stored in a database for a match to the search input query by utilising the selected digital ink searching algorithm (See column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-2, lines 16-28; column 13, lines 11-18);
and

returning any matches to the search input query as a search result (See column 3, lines 16-28).

As to claim 2, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on the digital ink to be searched (See column 3, lines 16-28).

As to claim 3, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on the search input query (See column 3, lines 16-28).

As to claim 4, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on information contained in a document associated with the digital ink to be searched (See column 3, lines 16-28).

As to claim 5, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined manually, by a user selecting the specialized format of digital ink (See column 3, lines 16-28).

As to claim 6, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined manually, by a parameter associated with the system processing the digital ink (See column 3, lines 16-28, where "spatial and temporal components" is read on "parameter").

As to claim 7, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined automatically, based on a font contained in the document associated with the digital ink to be searched (See column 3, lines 16-28; column 8, lines 13-61).

As to claim 8, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document label or document setting associated with the digital ink (See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 9, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document field label associated with the digital ink (See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 10, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a document field attribute associated with the digital ink (See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 11, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on an analysis of the characteristics of the digital ink to be searched (See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 12, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a written language or script of the digital ink to be searched

(See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 13, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on a written character set of the digital ink to be searched (See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 14, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the specialized format of digital ink is determined based on differentiating written text from drawings in the digital ink to be searched (See column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 15, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the search input query is of a type from the group of: textual; numerical; alphanumeric; pictorial; or graphical (See column 3, lines 16-28; column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 16, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein an indicating label of the specialized format of digital ink is stored with the digital ink (See column 3, lines 16-28; column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 17, Lopresti et al. teaches a system for improving accuracy in searching digital ink (See abstract), the system comprising:

(1) an input device to receive a search input query as digital ink having a specialized format, the specialized format having a unique text structure (See column 3, lines 16-33);

(2) a storage device to store the searchable digital ink in a plurality of formats, each format being different than the other formats (See column 4, lines 4-15);

(3) at least one processor in communication with the storage device (See column 4, lines 4-30), the at least one processor being loaded with a plurality of digital ink searching algorithms, each searching algorithm being different than the other searching algorithms and being specialized for searching the searchable digital ink of a respective one of the different formats in the storage device (See column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-28), the processor being configured to:

(A) determine the unique text structure of the specialized format of digital ink (See column 3, lines 16-28, where "patterns" is read on "format");

(B) select a digital ink searching algorithm specifically provides a search of the database for the determined unique text structure (See column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-2, lines 16-28; column 13, lines 11-18); and,

(C) search the digital ink for matches to the search input query by utilising the selected digital ink searching algorithm (See column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-2, lines 16-28; column 13, lines 11-18); and, (4) an output device to display one or more search results (See column 7, lines 1-6).

As to claim 18, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the input device is a pen-based input device (See abstract; column 1, lines 12-16).

As to claim 19, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the input device is a keyboard or keypad (See column 1, lines 44-45).

As to claim 20, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the output device is a printer or a visual display (See column 7, lines 1-6).

As to claim 21, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the digital ink is associated with one or more of a document label, a document setting, a document field label or a document field attribute, and the specialized format of digital ink is determined from one or more of the document label, the document setting, the document field label or the document field attribute (See column 3, lines 16-28; column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 22, Lopresti et al. teaches wherein the at least one processor determines the specialized format of digital ink based on user input to the input device (See column 3, lines 16-28; column 8, lines 13-61; column 11, lines 61-67).

As to claim 23, Lopresti et al. teaches the system as claimed in claim 17, the at least one processor adapted to perform the method of any one of the claims 1 to 16 (See column 4, lines 16-30).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 23-November -2008, with respect to the rejected claims 1-23 have been fully considered but they are not found to be persuasive:

In response to applicants' arguments regarding ***"that the subject matter of amended independent claims 1 and 17, and claims 2-16 and 18-23, is not disclosed or suggested by Lopresti, because in each of the embodiments disclosed by Lopresti the same partial match search procedure is used regardless of the particular format of the input annotations (see col. 7, line 23-col. 8, line 65 and Fig. 9), not different, specialized searching algorithms for different digital ink formats as is required by the claimed invention,"*** the arguments have been fully considered but are not found to be persuasive, because Lopresti does disclose a plurality of formats (see column 4, lines 43-55). Lopresti also discloses a plurality of searching algorithms such as distance, recognition, match and etc. (See column 2, lines 60-67; column 3, lines 1-33) and although Lopresti does disclose a partial match search in order to find a match to the search input Lopresti still reads upon the body of the claim language since the algorithm is selected in order to search for the match, as disclosed in claim 1.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELLISSA M. CHOJNACKI whose telephone number is (571)272-4076. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

February 9, 2009
Mmc

/Charles Rones/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2164